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aspects of “character” are fully covered by other sections of § 8-2, including considerations of historic preservation, environmental impact, density, scale, location, and the suitability of uses.

- **Support H.B. 6613 An Act Concerning Accessory Apartments, Middle Housing and Multifamily Housing** Permitting ADUs and small multifamily housing more broadly and without undue restrictions will promote the incremental growth of our lower cost housing supply, bringing new residents to town centers and transit station areas while continuing to allow municipalities to control the physical and site characteristics of their community through their zoning ordinance, the health code, building code, and other regulations.
- **Support with amendments S.B. 1026 An Act Concerning Training for Certain Planning and Zoning Officials.** S. B. 1026 allows municipalities to require members of planning and zoning commissions to complete four (4) hours of training annually, at least two of which must include training on housing alternatives or affordable housing. *We recommend this bill be amended to increase the minimum hours of training to five (5) hours annually and require all members of planning and zoning commissions in Connecticut meet this minimum standard. We recommend the bill be amended to direct the state to develop such a training curriculum, to be administered in-person and online.*

I have lived in Connecticut my entire life, in many different areas of the state. I am a proud Connecticut resident but do believe that we, as a state, can do better. This state has been so progressive in honoring the rights of all groups and yet remains one of the most segregated states in the nation. Connecticut must be more aggressive at changing its housing laws to encourage more equity and diversity in our communities.

H.B. No. 6107, H.B. No. 6613, and S.B. No. 1026 are actionable steps Connecticut can implement to address the issues of equity across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele Conderino".

Michele Conderino
Executive Director
Open Door Shelter, Inc.



**Planning and Development Committee
Public Hearing
Monday, March 15, 2021**

MICHELE CONDERINO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OPEN DOOR SHELTER, INC.

Support

- **H.B. No. 6107 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ZONING ENABLING ACT AND THE PROMOTION OF MUNICIPAL COMPLIANCE'**
- **H.B. No. 6613 'AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESSORY APARTMENTS, MIDDLE HOUSING AND MULTIFAMILY HOUSING'**

Support with Amendments

- **S.B. No. 1026 'AN ACT CONCERNING TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PLANNING AND ZONING OFFICIALS'**

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Hwang, Representative Zullo, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today on **H.B. No. 6107, H.B. No. 6613, and S.B. No. 1026** to support efforts to increase housing opportunity in Connecticut. My name is Michele Conderino and I am a resident of Redding, CT.

I am a member of the statewide HOMEConnecticut Campaign to expand housing opportunity in Connecticut and am the Executive Director of Open Doors in Norwalk, Connecticut. We build our agenda using a consensus process and it represents a wide variety of bipartisan partners. We, alongside many other partners in the state, know that safe, affordable housing is critical for our state's residents and our economy. When our state's residents have stable housing, their economic and health outcomes improve.

We respectfully request that the committee:

- **Support H.B. No. 6107 An Act Concerning the Reorganization of the Zoning Enabling Act and the Promotion of Municipal Compliance.** H.B. 6107 promotes the state's policy goal of encouraging all municipalities to plan for multi-family housing and housing affordable to low- and moderate-income families. Further, it requires zoning regulations affirmatively further the purposes of the federal Fair Housing Act and removes the highly subjective "character of the district" consideration, which has been used as the basis of discriminatory zoning decisions. All reasonable